

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-2 and claims 4-6, without prejudice or disclaimer, as allegedly being drawn to a non-elected invention. Please add claims 7-13 to better claim the present invention.

1-2. (cancelled)

3. (original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

4 -6. (cancelled)

7. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

8. (new) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

9. (new) The expression vector of claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is that of SEQ ID NO: 1.

10. (new) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 8.

11. (new) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 9.

12. (new) A method of producing a protein, comprising culturing a cell of claim 10 under conditions permitting expression of the polypeptide.

13. (new) A method of producing a protein, comprising culturing a cell of claim 11 under conditions permitting expression of the polypeptide.

RESPONSE

II. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, as allegedly being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 7-13 have been added to better claim the present invention. Claims 3, 7-13 are therefore pending.

III. Support for the Claims

Claim 7 has been added to better claim the invention. Support for this dependent claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least in original claim 3 on which it depends and the Sequence Listing as originally filed.

Claims 8 and 9 have been added to better claim the invention. Support for these claims can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least on or about page 14 lines 20-26 and the Sequence Listing as originally filed.

Claims 10 and 11 have been added to better claim the invention. Support for these claims can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least on or about page 14 lines 26-33 and the Sequence Listing as originally filed.

Claims 12 and 13 have been added to better claim the invention. Support for these claims can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least on or about page 24, line 7 through page 27, line 33 and the Sequence Listing as originally filed.

As all of the new claims are fully supported by the specification, sequence listings and claims as originally filed, they do not constitute new matter. Entry is, therefore, respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

The present document is believed to be a complete response to the Office Communication received regarding Election Requirement. This response is timely filed and Applicants believe no additional fees are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

Applicants believe that the claims of the instant application meet all of the conditions for patentability and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication of the same is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Teller have any questions or comments, or believe that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


Lance K. Ishimoto

90162
Reg. No. 41,866

LEXICON GENETICS INCORPORATED
(281) 863-3333

Customer # 24231